

Murray, Walter Charles

President, University of Saskatchewan

Sept 1914 - April 1915



Extracted  
from XXVII

September 8th, 1914

President W. C. Murray,  
University of Saskatchewan.

My dear Murray:

We are just back after a variety of experiences. It was doubtful to the end whether we should be able to sail on the "CAlgarian", and when we did come we had darkened lights, closed bulwarks and stuffy air, but we are glad to be safe home.

I hope that you got my letter from Keswick. This delay has of course upset all plans with regard to the meeting of our Commission, and now I am doubtful as to what we should do. The sudden death of Dean Galbraith, the vacancies caused by members of the staff volunteering for the front and being detained in Europe, and the financial situation will, I am afraid, make it impossible for me to go West until some time after the session has opened and well under way. In any case may it not be that the new condition of affairs will render it unnecessary for us to have our pronouncement ready in the Calgary situation as soon as we had expected? Will you please let me know by return your views of the matter? I am also writing to Mackenzie, and will write to Mr. Boyle.

I am afraid that you also will suffer as we shall from this awful war. We only must keep our heads and do the immediate things that must be done and wait for developments. I hope that Mrs. Murray and the children are back with you and that you have not been too much worried by the present situation. I hear that poor Westbrook finds himself seriously hampered by this sudden outbreak. With kind regards, I am,  
Yours sincerely,



University of Saskatchewan

738

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

September 12th, 1914.

Dear Falconer,

Your letter of the 8th has been received.

We were glad to hear of your arrival in Toronto. For a time everyone was anxious.

This note is written in a great hurry to tell you that I can make arrangements to attend the Commission at any time suitable to you.

Morton has arrived and is beginning his work.

The war has obliged us to ease off in our capital work, and we are adjusting ourselves as well as we can with regard to current expenses. Three or four of our staff have enlisted for service <sup>foreign</sup> later, but <sup>later - the next contingent</sup> will not go to the front. What arrangements are you making for the members of your staff who are going out? We have agreed to give them leave of absence, that is, to keep their position open for them, and to give them half of their pay during the time that they are away.

I think that we will find our incon-

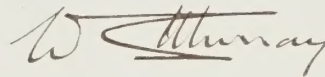
University of Saskatchewan

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

veniences much less than we feared, for everyone is beginning to adjust himself to the war conditions, and business will go on very much as usual so far as routine matters are concerned.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Murray".

President R. A. Falconer,  
The University,  
Toronto, Ont.



September 19th, 1914

President Murray,

University of Saskatchewan.

My dear Murray:

I have just received a letter from Mr. Boyle in which he says that as the Legislature meets on October 7 and it will be impossible for us to have the report of the Commission ready for presentation to the House this year it may be delayed for the next session. He seems to feel that he has a sufficient explanation to present to the House in the fact that the Commission could not be held owing to the outbreak of the war. This means that we may take our own time, and would it not be well to defer our meeting until the spring ?

We have not yet drawn up our full plan of action with regard to those who have left us for the front, though I hope to have it ready by next Thursday. We will of course keep their places open, but the conditions are so different that we shall have to consider each individual case. Probably the salary will be paid to the wives of the married men. Cases of others will perhaps be held over until they return. The one German who is in Germany at present is cut off absolutely and his case will have to be considered later. The three Frenchmen will probably come under the rule as our English staff. I think that we shall be able to have our teaching attended to in a very satisfactory way. The most serious problem that confronts us is the finance of the University. I am urging all departments to cut down to the lowest possible limit, and if it can be at all avoided, we shall not cut salaries. That depends of course in the last resort upon the Government, and we shall likely see the Legislature on the matter.



We are getting an Officers Training Corps under way, and I hope that the students will join it in large numbers. There are about fifteen of the staff who are now undergoing training to take charge of it. This should provide interest and be useful.

You refer to your stoppage of building. I suppose you do not regard that as very serious at present. We have had our building stopped absolutely, and the Hart House, which is being given to us by the Massey Estate, has had nothing done at it since the beginning of August. The worst feature of that is unless it is protected it will be somewhat injured by the weather.

The most that we can all expect to do this year I believe is to keep things going. We are adding a Director of our new Social Service Training courses through the generosity of Mrs. Warren, a Toronto lady who is to pay his salary for three years. Otherwise we have no changes.

I hope you are all well. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

September 29th, 1914

President Murray,

University of Saskatchewan.

My dear Murray:

How long do you think we can wait before getting to work on our Commission? It will be extremely difficult for me to go out this autumn. I have written this morning to Mackenzie asking him what time would suit him best. Do you think that we ought to do it before next spring? Would the month of May be too late? I will endeavour to hold myself ready to go whenever it may seem best. I judged, however, from Mr. Boyle's letter that there was no immediate hurry. Have you reason to think that in the present financial condition there is any necessity for our acting until the spring?

With us the indications are that our attendance will be very good; better, I think than I had anticipated. I am glad to know that your financial difficulties are no worse than they were. We also like you are cutting down expenditures, but how far it is possible to go I do not yet know.

I am, Yours sincerely,

President.



University of Saskatchewan

731

Saskatoon, Sask.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

October 5th, 1914.

Dear Falconer,

Your letter of September 29th has been received.

I do not know at present what Calgary's wishes in the matter are, but I know that some time ago they were very anxious to get a decision, so that they could form satisfactory plans. The month of May next year would, undoubtedly, be too late for them to form satisfactory plans for 1915-16; but it is possible that the present financial difficulties, which are particularly acute in Calgary, may prevent any change in the programme. I think, if I were in their place, I would like to know some time about the beginning of the new year what the probabilities were. If they decide to close the College, it will be exceedingly difficult for the staff to secure positions elsewhere late in the year. However, the matter is in your hands, and whatever the Minister of Education wishes, I suppose, should be final.

Morton has begun his work and has a large class, and he seems to be enjoying his work. It is just possible that we may be able to wean him away from Knox.



University of Saskatchewan

Saskatoon, Sask.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

I am going to recommend that he be appointed Professor of History, and that he be required to have oversight of the Library. This will be possible, provided that Underhill can look after the Greek for a time.

Oliver's College is opening with a very good attendance, and he is full of his work. In spite of all the discouragements from lack of funds, I think he is going to have an exceedingly successful year of it. If anyone can make a College successful, Oliver will do it.

Sincerely yours,

*W. Murray*

President R. A. Falconer,

The University,

Toronto, Ont.

*P.S. A copy of a letter received from President Long since the dictation of this letter is enclosed.*

*W. C. M.  
p. B.*



University of Saskatchewan

737

Saskatoon, Sask.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Copy.

Edmonton, Sept. 30th, 1914

Personal.

President Murray,  
University of Saskatchewan,  
Saskatoon, Sask.

Dear Dr. Murray:

Personally I am very much disappointed that the Commission is not meeting before the Legislature meets. There never was a time more suitable than the present moment to get the matter settled. I agree it should not be delayed a moment longer than necessary. The report should be made public at the earliest date. I wish you could hurry it forward.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) H. M. Tory

President.



COPY.

Palmer, N.S. Oct. 13, 1914

Just returned from Philadelphia. Letter of thanks  
awaiting me. Disappointed Commission called on yesterday till advised as  
all police matters are necessarily controlled and are handled constantly  
checked. However, it is necessary to go on with the matter will just have  
to take it convenient. Please give us some more information.

(Sincerely,  
J. Edgar Hoover)



October 14th, 1914

President Murray,  
University of Saskatchewan,  
Saskatoon, Sask.

My dear Murray:

I have just received this letter from Mackenzie.

Please write your opinion? I could go call the Commission for Thursday, November 19th or November 2. Of course the war situation is such that we are all uncertain as to what day look at it. No one regrets more than I to that it has to be deferred until sometime, but I suppose it was impossible for Mackenzie as far as it is way on my return. I will try to come myself then to visit Mackenzie and you.

Yours sincerely,

President.



# Canadian Pacific Railway Company's Telegraph

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS



All messages are received by this Company for transmission, subject to the terms and conditions printed on their Blank Form No. 2, which terms and conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message. This is an unrepeatable message, and is delivered by request of the sender under these conditions.

J. McMILLAN, Gen. Supt., Winnipeg, Man.  
J. F. RICHARDSON, Supt., Vancouver, B.C.  
R. N. YOUNG, Supt., Calgary, Alta.  
D. COONS, Supt., Moose Jaw, Sask.  
E. M. PAYNE, Supt., Winnipeg, Man.

W. J. CAMP, Assistant Manager, Montreal, Que.  
D. H. BOWEN, Supt., Sudbury, Ont.  
W. MARSHALL, Supt., Toronto, Ont.  
F. J. MAHON, Supt., Montreal, Que.  
W. M. GODSCE, Supt., St. John, N.B.

**JAS. KENT,**  
Manager Telegraphs, Montreal.

I3 qe c 720pm x20 21

Saskatoon Sask Oct 19

Pres Falconer

University of Toronto

I can go at any time suitable to you and McKenzie provided it does  
not prevent my attending the union meeting

W C Murray

Your nearest Telegraph office is  
**Hanna's Drug Store**  
221 Spadina Ave.  
Telephone College 227

October 21st, 1911

President Murray,

University of Saskatchewan.

My dear Murray:

Mackenzie will go, though at considerable inconvenience, to Edmonton for November 19th. I am writing to Mr. Boyle to ask him whether there is anything to interfere with our meeting in Edmonton on that date. I think therefore we can probably regard it as settled.

We have had quite a house full of sickness. Gilbert has had typhoid. The little boy has had what looked like a more severe attack of typhoid, and Mrs. Falconer is now in bed with a bad attack of tonsillitis. I hope you are all well.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.



October 11, 1914

President Acheson,

University of California.

My dear Harry:

I have come from Mr. Byll that the 14th will suit him as I have written to Jackson. As will have seen on Tuesday night, the 14th at Berkeley and to arrive at the office on Tuesday. As will see the Great Trans Pacific Mail boat is expected to arrive in San Francisco on Wednesday night at which office so as to be ready for Thursday. I will leave the plant where the President stays in order that he and I may not wait long. However, these arrangements will give us plenty of time.

You know Fiedler. Can you make arrangements for accommodation at a hotel for the three of us? I will take with me in that case.

Be very all yours, through me, whenever it will really look.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Friedrich.

7.6

*Handwritten:*  
Murray  
Jan 18

January 18th, 1915

President Murray,

University of Saskatchewan.

My dear Murray:

As far as I know no arrangements have yet been made for sending a university contingent next May. The authorities at Ottawa I think do not approve of having our men enlist as privates in a university regiment, except those for whom places cannot be found as officers. They wish to employ members of the Officers' Training Corps as leaders. At least, this is as I understand the position at present. We have communicated with the Militia Department at Ottawa to induce them to authorise the formation of a concentration camp for the purpose of giving intensive training to those who are going to apply for commissions. This camp would probably be held about the first of May, and we would shorten our work in order to allow students to attend it. However, it has not been definitely authorised, and the Minister of Militia and Defence writes me that he cannot decide the matter until about the middle of February.

Pardon me for not having sent you a copy of the report. I thought I had done so. It goes herewith. I have received an acknowledgment of the receipt of it from Mr. Boyle's secretary, but he is not home, and I suppose he has not yet seen it. One or two minor suggestions of Mackenzie were incorporated in the final draft. I also endeavoured to verify the relation of Universities to population in Britain and found that our three millions was rather too high.

I think that our trouble with the German professors is about



over, though there are still desultory shots being fired by irregulars.

Possibly we may meet it in the House, though I think that the Government is glad to have it settled.

I have thought a good deal about your proposal as to the power of the President, and it might be that by the three-quarters vote of the full Board of Governors his decision should be over-ruled. I doubt, however, whether appointments should be made except on his nomination. Otherwise you might have all sorts of lobbying and wire-pulling to get a majority vote for an appointment. The matter has not so far as I know been discussed since our trouble, though possibly it may come up. Undoubtedly, if you are to make a change in your constitution, it is better to have it done now when everything is running smoothly than in time of trouble. There is a great deal in what you say as to the dismissal of the President. It certainly should be regarded when necessary from the point of view of a larger action than the dismissal of a member or members of the staff. It ought to mean a change in the general administration which has come to be regarded as unsatisfactory. Possibly our trouble has for the first time brought this fact into prominence.

I have had a very interesting correspondence from both the American and especially the English Universities. Edinburgh is the only one that got into a bad tangle, and Seth writes me that it was a very bad tangle indeed. Sir Edward Schaeffer is out with a printed memorandum in defence of his lecturer, who has not been reappointed. Sir Donald MacAlister writes that Edinburgh is coming in for a good deal of scathing criticism, and that they have both a naturalised and a non-naturalised German on their staff. From Leeds, and from Manchester, I get very sympathetic letters. Liverpool seems to be more sympathetic with Edinburgh. Birmingham has a professor who

became naturalised since the outbreak of war, as also in Aberdeen, but our loyal Toronto people want to outdo Britain. There is even a talk of not having German music at a concert this week, while in London, after the first suggestion of such a thing, it has been played in musical performances

I hope that you are all well. Gilbert is just recovering from a severe attack, this time tonsillitis, and Mrs. Falconer is down with it again. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.



January 20th, 1916

President Murray,

University of Saskatchewan.

My dear Murray:

Since writing you yesterday I have seen Lang, who is Colonel of our Officers' Training Corps, and I enclose you a copy of his letter. This modifies mine to a certain extent. You will see from it that in order to keep our men, some of them who want to go to the front are dining in their names on a chance that a university battalion or company perhaps may be formed in the spring.

Yours sincerely,

February 28, 1915

President W. C. Murray,  
University of Saskatchewan.

My dear Murray:

Many thanks for your letter which I have just received on my return from New York. I do not know that I can give you any further information about J. A. Salomonson of Croningen. He impressed me as being a very likable fellow, and the Professors to whom he introduced me seemed to treat him with respect. He is a refined fellow and his wife is a refined little Prussian lady. Johannes of Hamburg, who is I think the leading spirit in the proposed new university at Hamburg, or at any rate he is the head of the department of Colonial History and Economics, is a strong friend of Salomonson. If therefore you can judge a man by his associates I should think that he is very good. But, why not write to Harrison of Cooper's. He knows him well, and I should think that there is a good deal of similarity between the two, though possibly Harrison is the stronger man of the two.

I am glad you have called my attention to the misprint in the Report. I will at once write to Alberta and have it amended. So far no word has come of Mr. Boyle's return.

I have just been visiting Harvard, Yale and New York: among other purposes seeing what the field is with regard to possible Deans for the Faculty of Applied Science. I met some very interesting people, got a good deal of advice, but I am doubtful whether I have seen any one who would suit. If we can get a Canadian we shall do so.

You will be glad to hear that Ross Faulkner is quite well again. He has been a year in New York, the disease having been arrested, and he is



. doing well in his practice.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

March 19th, 1915

President Murray,

University of Saskatchewan.

My dear President Murray:

For the last three years we have had on our classical staff a young Oxford man of very good attainments, and who has given satisfaction as a teacher. His name is Ernest Clifton. Probably, however, we shall reduce our staff this coming year, partly by reason of shortage of funds, and partly by reason of a likely shortage of students, and in any case it is doubtful whether we can offer Mr. Clifton much promotion. If you need a man in Classics I think that you would find Mr. Clifton satisfactory.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.



April 3rd, 1915

President W. C. Murray,  
University of Saskatchewan.

My dear Murray:

Your letter has just arrived. I have heard nothing as to what the Government did with our Report, except what I saw in the newspapers. I am glad, however, from what you tell me to know that it seems to have united all parties. I wonder whether they intend to print the report? Possibly I should write and find out.

Peterson cannot come to the conference on Friday, May 28th, but Tuesday, the first of June would suit him. I suppose that this will suit you just as well. After I have heard from others I will let you know whether I will change the day.

We are bringing forward our Commencement by three weeks to 21st May in order to allow students to get into concentration camp.

Among other things there is a good deal of attention now being put on the preparation and equipment of our University Hospital. It seems to be going very well.

I am glad to know that you have got the promise of Dyde's going to you. He will suit you well and probably a man of more physical vigour and driving power will do better in Edmonton. When you come East make up your mind to stay some days with us. Unfortunately both the boys have been in bed for five and seven weeks with inflammation of the valves of the heart. I hope, however, that by the time you come they will be better. Remember me to Mrs. Murray. With kind regards, I am,

